

CLAIMS

1. A method for generating position information in a mobile equipment provided with at least two position determination devices, the method comprising the
5 following steps:
 - allocating to each position determination device at least one stored parameter value,
 - determining a context information,
 - depending on the context information, choosing a corresponding position
10 determination device selection process based on the value of said at least one parameter for each position determination device, and
 - selecting a position determination device according to the chosen selection process, and
 - activating said selected position determination device.
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2. A method according to claim 1, wherein at least two stored parameter values are allocated to each position determination device.
3. A method according to claim 2, wherein said stored parameter values
20 include at least one among an accuracy value, a response time value and a power consumption value.
4. A method according to any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein the step of selecting a position determination device comprises the sub-steps of:
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 - ranking the position determination devices depending on the chosen selection process, and
 - selecting an available position determination device of best rank.
5. A method according to any one of claims 1 to 4, further comprising the
30 steps of:
 - identifying a position data format as requested by an application,

- determining whether a currently active position determination device supplies data according to this format, and,
- in the negative, converting the position data supplied by the currently active position determination device into the requested position data format.

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6. A method according to any one of claims 1 to 5, wherein position data include physical position data and logic position data.

7. A method according to claim 6, wherein physical position data include
10 Cartesian coordinates and longitude/latitude and possibly altitude coordinates.

8. A method according to claim 6, wherein logic position data include radiofrequency beacon identifiers.

15 9. A method according to claims 5 and 8 taken in combination, wherein the conversion step comprises reading from a table physical coordinates corresponding to at least one beacon identifier.

10. A mobile equipment having data processing capabilities, comprising:

- at least two position determination devices each capable of delivering position information of the mobile equipment in a specific format,
- at least two drivers for said position determination devices, each driver being capable of storing and retrieving at least one parameter associated with the position determination device,
- a location handling unit in communication with said drivers and capable of communicating with an application for providing position information, said location handling unit being capable of selecting a position determination device to be used for obtaining position information based on a context information and on the values of said parameters stored in the drivers.

11. A mobile equipment according to claim 10, wherein said position determination devices are selected from the group comprising cell-based positioning devices, satellite-based positioning devices and beacon-based positioning devices.

12. A mobile equipment according to claim 10 or 11, wherein each driver is capable of storing and retrieving at least two different parameters.

13. A mobile equipment according to claim 12, wherein said parameters comprise at least two among a position accuracy parameter, a response time parameter and a power consumption parameter.

14. A mobile equipment according to any one of claims 12 and 13, wherein said location handling unit is adapted to receive a context message from said application and a priority of parameters is established as a function of said context message.

15. A mobile equipment according to claim 14, wherein said location handling unit comprises a ranking means capable of storing a set of position determination devices with a preference order according to the parameter(s) of higher priority.

16. A mobile equipment according to claim 15, wherein said location handling unit comprises an availability checking means for checking whether a preferred position determination device in said set is available or not and, in the negative, for checking the next preferred position determination device.

17. A mobile equipment according to any one of claims 10 to 14, wherein said location handling unit is capable of providing to said application position data together with accuracy information relating to said data.

18. A mobile equipment according to any one of claims 10 to 17, further comprising a position data conversion unit in communication with said location handling unit.

19. A mobile equipment according to claim 18, wherein said location handling unit is responsive to data format requirement information provided by the application for requesting conversion by said position data conversion unit.

20. A mobile equipment according to any one of claims 1 to 19, further comprising a position history unit capable of storing a plurality of position data together with time/date information.